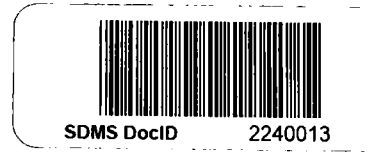




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U.S. EPA - REGION III REGIONAL RESPONSE CENTER

12TH STREET LANDFILL/DUMP SITE
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE



SITE PHONE: 302-573-5120
SITE FAX: 302-573-5122

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: MR. DAVID WOOD

FROM: MIKE TOWLE

DATE: 3 MAY 2001, 2000

NUMBER OF ATTACHED PAGES: 3

COMMENTS:

This letter was mailed yesterday (copy also to Paul Welsh
of Steve Turley of DEEDOT). The proposed informational mtg. will be
a good opportunity to be involved in future of DEEDOT property at
the 12th St. Site. Please call if any questions.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
TOWLE -3HS31

2 May 2001

Mr. David A. Wood, SR/WA
Assistant Chief, Real Estate
Delaware Dept. of Transportation
800 Bay Road
Dover, DE 19903

re: Electric Hose and Rubber Co.
12th Street Landfill/Dump Site
Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Mr. Wood:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is now completing a Time-Critical Removal Action at the 12th Street Landfill/Dump Site in Wilmington, Delaware. The Removal Action is conducted pursuant to EPA authorities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), more commonly known as Superfund. The 12th Street Landfill/Dump Site is located along 12th Street and the Brandywine Creek immediately west of Interstate 495 in Wilmington, Delaware. The Site and Removal Action were resultant from the erosion of contaminated soil and waste materials from the Site into the Brandywine Creek. The waste materials, consisting primarily of industrial hoses, related debris, drum remains, and lead-contaminated soil, apparently resulted from the adjacent operations of the former Electric Hose and Rubber Company facility. Waste materials and contaminated soil have been identified on properties currently owned by approximately six different entities.

This correspondence is sent to representatives of present day owners of property upon which EPA has identified elevated levels of contamination and/or waste materials, present day owners of portions of the former Electric Hose and Rubber Co. facility, and present day companies linked to the former Electric Hose and Rubber Company. As such, recipient organizations of this correspondence may have potential liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund), and similar Delaware environmental Acts or Programs, for costs associated with mitigating threats posed by the Site.

This correspondence invites you to an informational meeting with EPA and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC). The intent of this meeting is to provide each owner of contaminated property with the opportunity to obtain information relating to property contamination, understand potential responsibilities for removal or remediation of the contamination, and participate in any strategy development. A goal of the meeting will be to provide the opportunity to enable potentially affected parties to best understand their potential role in future

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actions relating to the Electric Hose and Rubber Company facility and the 12th Street Landfill/Dump Site. Technical and legal representation is encouraged.

The meeting will be conducted by the EPA On-Scene Coordinator and DNREC Site Manager now coordinating cleanup activities. The meeting is scheduled to be held on May 24, 2001, at 10:00 a.m.. The meeting will be conducted at the offices of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control located at 391 Lukens Drive in New Castle, Delaware. An opportunity to visit the Site will be offered. Please contact me at 215-814-3272 if additional information is required.

Sincerely,



Michael Towle,
On-Scene Coordinator

Attachment: Fact Sheet

12th Street Landfill/Dump Site
Wilmington, Delaware

Sampling and analytical activities conducted by DNREC and EPA in 1999 identified an area of elevated soil and sediment contamination along the bank of the Brandywine Creek. Several hazardous substances were identified in the soil in an area where the remains of drums and industrial hoses were seen protruding from the soil. Historical aerial photographs suggested that the elevated contamination coincided with an area of disturbed ground adjacent to an industrial facility. The facility was the former Electric Hose and Rubber Company which has operated in the area at least since the early 1900's.

Lead concentrations were identified up to 260,000 mg/kg in the soil. Biototoxicity testing also indicated that arsenic and chromium concentrations contributed to environmental risk. Organic compounds identified and attributable to the Site include toluene and bis (2-Ethyhexyl) Phthalate. The waste consisted of large amounts of industrial hoses of various sizes, waste rubber materials, drums containing waste hoses and rags, and pieces of lead and other metal. The EPA On-Scene Coordinator identified some hoses with labels identifying the Electric Hose and Rubber Co.

Based upon high levels of hazardous substances at the Site, EPA initiated a Time-Critical Removal Action in 2000 intending to stabilize the most immediate threats posed by the Site --- erosion of contamination into the Brandywine Creek and exposure of high contamination levels in the surface soil. The Action entailed re-grading the Site to promote drainage and minimize erosion and then covering the contamination with 24 inches of soil material (articulating concrete blocks were placed on the Creek bank). The Action is expected to be completed in the Spring of 2001.

During the course of the Action, additional sampling and analysis indicated that the size of the contaminated area was significantly larger than originally expected. Elevated lead levels were identified on properties located on the north side of 12th Street, on properties not within the EPA installed cover, and within sediments of the Brandywine Creek. Sampling and analysis coordinated by DNREC has also identified elevated lead concentrations in the area occupied by the former Electric Hose and Rubber Company facility.

The Electric Hose and Rubber facility ceased operations in the 1970's. Property ownership near the facility has changed several times in the past decades. At this time, more than 6 parcels exhibit contamination, contain waste materials, or contain elevated lead concentrations. Parcels are owned by two Departments with the State of Delaware, a Local Economic Development Corporation, a railroad, and at least 2 other private entities.

The EPA Time-Critical Removal Action did not address all threats posed by the currently anticipated area of contamination. Current sampling and analysis may not fully characterize the area of contamination or potential threats. The Site may be addressed under Federal or State authorities.